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PRESS RELEASE

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USAID Convenes Regional Energy Experts To Initiate Electricity Transmission Project

From January 21 – 25, USAID brought together leaders in the field of electricity transmission from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan to a workshop on the Power System Simulator for Engineers software in Bishkek. The workshop was designed by the USAID Regional Energy Markets Assistance Program (REMAP) to help regional transmission system operators develop simulation models of their national high voltage networks to analyze power flows within the Central Asian system and between Central Asia and neighboring markets in South Asia.

The new software provides this corps of engineers from the six countries with the tools to analyze system security and reliability, while identifying potential constraints resulting from anticipated increases in electricity trade and exchange.

After four days of training, a senior-level energy official meeting was held, resulting in agreement that operators from Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan will participate in the REMAP work as observers. Participants are also planning to sign a Memorandum of Understanding that will provide a framework for further regional cooperation and integration of the electricity sector, helping to increase supply through trade while controlling costs for consumers.

The collegial interaction of the diverse participants in the software training and the meeting highlighted the real progress achieved toward regional cooperation in the energy sector through REMAP. As the USAID project moves forward, necessary investments in power systems and interconnection equipment will be identified, while trading of electric power within Central Asia and between Central Asia and South Asia will be further enhanced.

This workshop is one of the many activities supported by the American people through USAID (the United States Agency for International Development) in Central Asian Republics. Since 1992, USAID has delivered over \$1.5 billion in programs that assisted the region's economic growth, healthcare, education, and democratic institutions.

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